

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of monitoring and controlling power consumption comprising:
2 reading power consumption data using an automatic reader;
3 collecting data from the reader in a computer memory device;
4 creating a forecast of electric power consumption for a predetermined
5 period of time using the computer; and
6 controlling an amount of power consumption by controlling a device that
7 consumes power based on the forecast.
- 1 2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done
2 manually by hand.
- 1 3. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done
2 manually using a computer.
- 1 4. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done
2 automatically through a computer.
- 1 5. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of
2 time is instantaneous.
- 1 6. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of
2 time is any chronological period of time.
- 1 7. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of
2 time may be any non-chronological period of time.
- 1 8. A system for monitoring and controlling power consumption comprising:

2 a reader for obtaining power consumption data from an electric utility
3 service; and

4 a computer system for collecting the data from the reader wherein the
5 computer system is used to create a forecast of electric power consumption for a
6 predetermined period of time and wherein a device that consumes electricity is
7 controlled based on the forecast.

1 9. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said controlling is done
2 manually using a computer.

1 10. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said controlling is done
2 automatically through a computer.

1 11. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined period of
2 time is instantaneous.

1 12. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined period of
2 time is any chronological period of time.

1 13. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined period of
2 time may be any non-chronological period of time.